

## Joint P-16 Budget Request

# P-16 Shared Network Infrastructure Proposal

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### What is the P-16 Shared Network Infrastructure Proposal?

This is a proposal to create the Kentucky Education Network (KEN). The network will be a high-speed education centric network. The purpose of KEN is to facilitate the development, deployment, and operation of a set of seamless P-16 applications. It will support advanced research and education applications in order to further Kentucky's educational agenda. It will connect every college, university, and K-12 school district in the state to enhance the learning experience of students at all educational levels, regardless of geographic location. Also connected will be the agencies of the Education Cabinet and their statewide locations. This includes Kentucky Educational Television (KET), the Department of Workforce Development, Kentucky Adult Education, the Department for Libraries and Archives, the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Kentucky Environmental Education Council, the Center for School Safety, and the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

### How many Kentucky students, faculty, and staff are served by the program?

Every K-12, community college, university, and adult student being taught by a state-supported institution or agency will be served by this high-speed network.

### Why is a program like this needed?

The current telecommunications services to the K-12 schools and other education locations are inadequate. Access to a statewide, high-speed, affordable, educationally focused network will build upon the successes that are occurring at Universities, selected K-12 districts, and adult education centers across the state. A universally available high-speed network will provide the ability to:

- Connect all students with educational and research resources that are not available locally.
- Strengthen the relationship between postsecondary, adult education, and K-12 educators.
- Connect preservice teachers with real world K-12 classroom learning experiences.
- Increase the opportunities for high school students to participate in dual credit courses.
- Allow for educators to assess students' knowledge and subject mastery.
- Support data gathering for analysis and accountability of student and instructor performance.
- Provide contemporary, up-to-date research materials for students and teachers.
- Connect students with the rich research and advanced instructional applications of Internet2.
- Deliver virtual instruction to underserved areas to fill gaps in their programs.

This network will do for the education community what ConnectKentucky is doing for geographic communities across the Commonwealth.

### What is the funding request?

The Education Cabinet is requesting, with the support of the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board, \$8,464,500 in the first year and \$22,431,000 in the second year of the biennium.



Photo source: WKU

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